

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John D. Carpenter on 10/28/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 98 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids; and

a permanganate."--

Claim 99 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids;

a permanganate; and

metal ions selected from the group consisting of zinc, calcium, copper, iron, manganese, and cobalt."--

Claim 100 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids;

a permanganate; and

a butanol."--

Claim 101 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids;

a permanganate; and  
hydrogen peroxide."--

Claim 102 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids;

a permanganate; and  
a hydroxylamine."--

Claim 103 has been amended to read:

--"An acid composition for detoxification/deactivation of chemical or biological agents, consisting essentially of:

0.11 to 26 weight percent of a GRAS acid, the first GRAS acid being an inorganic acid that dissociates nearly to completion in water;

0.16 to 40 weight percent of a second GRAS acid, the second GRAS acid being an inorganic acid less strong than the first GRAS acid and having a dissociation constant of less than about  $10^{-1}$ ;

0.5 to 20 weight percent of a third GRAS acid, the third GRAS acid being a hydroxy acid having a chelating capability of at least twice the first and second GRAS acids;

a permanganate; and

an oxime."--

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art, Garcia, does not teach an acid composition consisting of the claimed three GRAS acid components, and a permanganate. The present specification shows the effectiveness of permanganate in combination with the three acid components in deactivating chemical warfare agents.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 98-103 are allowed.

***Correspondence***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-0606. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571) 272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Tran/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1615

<b>Application Number</b> 	<b>Application/Control No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination</b>
	10/735,304 <b>Examiner</b> S. Tran	RODEN ET AL. <b>Art Unit</b> 1615